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What's New on Anera's Website

**Photo:**

*Malak, 17, participated in Anera's career guidance workshop in Lebanon. The class helped her refine her professional and educational goals.*

## Tools for Tomorrow: Equipping and Transforming Lives

Tools for Tomorrow is the theme for Anera's Annual Gala on September 30. We're raising funds to provide tools of all kinds - from wrenches and sewing machines to new schools and training - so that the communities we serve can create their own change and help hope find a way.

As the new academic year begins, we share here some of the tools our community provides that either **make learning more accessible for young people or help families cope with life circumstances that can get in the way of education and growth.**

### Training and Mentoring

What better tool is there than knowledge? Anera's programs pass along the tool of knowledge in formal classroom settings, vocational education labs, and workplaces. We train teachers to create stimulating learning environments and farmers to make the most of limited land and resources. We mentor and train staff at community-based organizations to build their capacity to reach more people in their neighborhoods. Young people who come out of our vocational programs graduate with know-how that leads them to become plumbers, construction workers, chefs, sewing professionals, hairdressers, farmers, bakers and more.

*continued on page 2*

## credits

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## Did you know...

The information and communications technology sector contributes \$493 million to the Palestinian economy — about 3% of GDP.

## Tools for Tomorrow

continued from p. 1



### Equipment

The equipment Anera provides comes in many shapes and sizes. It may come in the form of a new oven or livestock to bolster a woman's small business. Or it may be a graduation kit that includes tools of the trade for a new beautician, electrician, or healthcare worker. Equipment can also take the form of books and other academic supplies for preschoolers and older learners. And it can be computers made available to young people who have never used one.

### Infrastructure

Infrastructure is a tool that has a great impact on a person's ability to succeed. It's why Anera builds schools that are spacious, bright and inspiring. It's why we install solar panels on centers that provide education, healthcare and community activities – so electricity is sustainable and never in short supply. It's why we erect greenhouses, install irrigation systems, link homes to water, improve streetscapes in camps, and renovate sports facilities.

### Income

For most of the families Anera serves, earning an income is an ever-present challenge. Without an income, opportunities slip away. Anera bolsters people's livelihoods and community economies by helping young people get jobs, hiring graduates of our vocational training programs to deliver humanitarian aid, purchasing supplies of all kinds from within the community, employing local contractors, and providing cash and food assistance to families.

We know you believe that each person, no matter their circumstances, embodies promise. And people equipped with the right tools can shape the life of their families, their neighborhoods, and their region. As you consider all of the tools you have helped provide across Lebanon, Palestine and Jordan, **please also consider celebrating these tools for success by joining us at the gala** or giving to our fundraiser –

[anera.org/gala](http://anera.org/gala)

## By the Numbers: Tools for Tomorrow

# 2,031

youths from vulnerable communities across Lebanon enrolled in our job skills training courses in the last year.

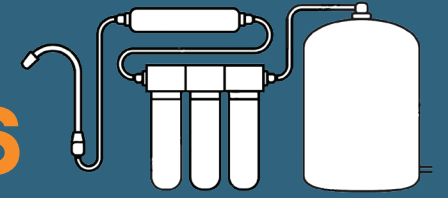


# 535

women entrepreneurs in Palestine built up small businesses with new equipment and training since 2019.

# 26

reverse osmosis water systems installed on schools, health facilities and irrigation systems in Gaza.



# 131

gently used laptops loaded with useful learning materials went to children in Jordan since 2021.



### WHY I SUPPORT ANERA

by Griffin Abdo, 17, is a dedicated Anera donor and fundraiser  
Excerpted from his article "Greenhouses for Gaza" in *This Week in Palestine*

Identity is everything to me. It informs my writing, my worldview, and how the world sees me. I'm blessed to have a diverse ethnic identity with lineages in both Vietnam and Palestine. Just before the fall of Saigon, my mother's family took refuge in America, settling in Virginia, where they remain. And I've even had the privilege of visiting my mother's homeland.

Unfortunately, I can't say the same about my Palestinian side. **I never understood why we never visited Palestine or why I could never even find Palestine on a map. I never understood why the news would make my father so upset sometimes. Whenever I'd ask, he'd always reply, "I'll explain when you're older."**

As I've grown and learned of Palestine's history and current circumstances, I've developed nothing but pride in my Palestinian identity and deep empathy for those living under occupation – which inspired me to take action. My father has been a long-time contributor to Anera. I connected with Anera President Sean Carroll with a desire to aid Palestine in alleviating its food insecurities.

The staff at Anera told me of the family-owned hydroponic greenhouses that they build in Gaza. **An über-successful rooftop greenhouse that Anera built atop a women's center sparked my project, G4G (Greenhouses For Gaza). And I created campaigns that raised enough to build 20 rooftop greenhouses!**

I've been doing work on my end to learn about hydroponics, volunteering and attending classes at a rooftop hydroponics center in DC. I also gardened with the New York Audubon Society over the summer. And I even interned at Anera to better connect with the wonderful people who help make G4G a reality.

Eventually, I hope to visit some of our greenhouses in Gaza.



## The Tech Ecosystem in Palestine

Challenges and Opportunities in the Palestinian Information and Communication Technology Sector

Anera conducted an assessment of the tech ecosystem in Palestine to inform our career accelerator program strategy and to provide a resource for other actors working on programs in the same space.

**Our assessment and narrative comes from 34 extensive interviews with tech leaders in Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem.** Interviewees include university professors, incubator/accelerator executives, company leaders, and talented IT professionals. Some portion of the data and statistics we include in our report come solely from one or more of the interviewees. Reliable data about the Palestine tech sector are scarce, so these conversations with experts provide a useful analysis and fill some gaps. We also rely upon the excellent reports produced by the World Bank, Swiss Development Cooperation, and the European Union, which we cite throughout the report.

Anera's PLUS (People Leveling Up Skills) IT upskilling program started with a pilot in 2019. The program graduated three cohorts of students from an intensive 20-week training in full-stack software development and achieved a 92% job placement rate. Anera is using the lessons learned from that pilot and the research conducted for this report to refine and grow our program.

Several discussions with major local companies in the region helped us assess market requirements by providing a better understanding of companies' struggles, hiring needs, and the skills that are most in demand. **Anera is re-designing our PLUS program so that it achieves maximum community-driven impact and benefit to local Palestinian youth.**

Read the full report at  
[anera.org/pal-tech](https://anera.org/pal-tech)

*Dalia was in the first cohort of students from Gaza who graduated from Anera's coding academy in December 2019. Dalia has since worked as an intern at Google and entered university.*



## Before the Taps Run Dry

Responses to Gaza's Existential Water Crisis

The semi-arid Middle East suffers from a chronic scarcity of water. The causes are many: climate change, drought, desertification, urbanization, over-consumption, waste and pollution. Politics also can present special challenges when it comes to accessing and distributing water resources. In Gaza, many of these issues are present in an extreme form.

The Gaza Strip is a 25-mile long stretch of coastal land (141 square miles, 365 square kilometers) that is home to a growing population of more than two million people. It includes eight recognized refugee camps that have some of the highest population densities in the world. Years of hostilities and a major blockade have crippled the economy and reduced much of the region to desperate levels of poverty. These conditions are demonstrated most clearly in the inability of the Gazan people to secure reliable access to some of the most basic necessities of human existence — water, sanitation, and power.

With virtually no potable water, severe limitations on available electricity, and raw sewage flowing from the streets to the sea, Gaza's inhabitants do what they can to live normal lives. In Gaza City, one of the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world, families struggle to maintain their daily routines, even as unsustainable conditions worsen. And, throughout Gaza, it is resilience in the face of despair that most aptly describes the people today.

**Anera's on-the-ground report looks at the deteriorating conditions of water, sanitation and wastewater management in Gaza, and the efforts by the Gazan people, together with some international actors, to forestall the further degradation of living standards in the region.**

Read the full report at  
[anera.org/gaza-water](https://anera.org/gaza-water)

**Less than 10%**  
of the population in Gaza  
has direct access to clean  
and safe drinking water.



*A girl gets water from a fountain at Al Rahma Preschool, where Anera installed a reverse osmosis system last year.*

Read Anera's two latest on-the-ground reports.

**Anera Reports**  
on the ground in the Middle East

Volumes 10 & 11 | Summer 2022

# In Case You Missed It

THE LATEST FROM ANERA.ORG



## A Vital Blood Bank in Gaza Now Has Renewable Energy Thanks to a New Solar Panel System

The Central Blood Bank Society (CBBS) provides free and safe blood transfusions and care for patients and hospitals in Gaza. Annually, CBBS collects approximately 20,000 units of blood and distributes them to 13 non-profit hospitals and 12 government hospitals.

In the past, CBBS depended on the use of two generators and expensive fuel to operate. Now, with the support of the Anera community, the blood bank can run their clinic with free and renewable solar power. The solar panel system will save CBBS up to \$3,500 monthly on fuel and 70% on electricity bills.

WATCH VIDEO  
[anera.org/cbbs-solar](https://anera.org/cbbs-solar)



## Supporting Small Farms and Farmers in North Lebanon

Lebanon has the highest proportion of cultivable land, per capita, in the Arab world. But food insecurity remains a serious problem. Ineffective agricultural policies and practices increase the challenge of providing enough locally-produced food at reasonable prices for Lebanon's population. Imported vegetables and fruits have cost Lebanese farmers a lot in terms of lost crops and revenue.

In Akkar, Anera is supporting 20 farming families in establishing agricultural greenhouses. They are provided with a greenhouse, seeds, equipment and agricultural training and mentorship. Anera is expanding its agricultural programs in Lebanon due to the economic and food insecurity crisis.

WATCH VIDEO  
[anera.org/akkar-farms](https://anera.org/akkar-farms)



## Anera Supports Palestinian Women and Cuisine

Ghada, who lives in the village of Bidoo, in northwest Jerusalem, has her own small catering business that uses a traditional Bedouin technique called *zarb*, where food is placed on metal racks and then slowly roasted in coal-filled pits that are carefully covered with blankets.

Anera helped her with equipment and training for her business and she has grown her capacity to make more meals and bring in a higher income for her family, for which she is the main breadwinner.

"The demand has increased and now I get customers from the surrounding villages, and my children help me to deliver the orders."

WATCH VIDEO  
[anera.org/ghada](https://anera.org/ghada)



# Join us in person for Anera's Annual Gala!

Friday, September 30, 2022

Mayflower Hotel, Washington, DC

Reception at 6:30 pm

Dinner at 7:30 pm

Anera's Annual Gala is **raising funds to provide tools of all kinds** – from wrenches and sewing machines to new schools and training – so that the communities we serve can create their own change and help hope find a way.

[anera.org/gala](https://anera.org/gala)




## Did you know that August is National Make-A-Will Month?

No matter what your "estate" includes, everyone needs a plan. The mindful actions we take today will shape our futures and improve outcomes for refugees and vulnerable people throughout the Middle East. **In just 20 minutes you can create a legally valid will, for free:**

[FreeWill.com/Anera](https://FreeWill.com/Anera)

## Tools for Tomorrow: Equipping and Transforming Lives

ANERA NEWS, ISSUE 217 | **SUMMER 2022**



*Anera's teams of engineers and contracted workers rehabilitated the water well in Mughraqa, in the middle area of Gaza. The upgrade includes installation of a new, community drinking fountain at the well. The updated water well improves daily access to clean household water for more than 11,000 people.*